

Agenda

Andrew R. Cochran, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency. John S. Breslan, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years. (Reappointment) John S. Breslan, of New Jersey, to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years. C. Russell H. Shearer, of Delaware, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years. William H. Graves, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2012. (Reappointment) Susan Richardson Williams, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2012. (Reappointment) Thomas C. Gilliland, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to conduct a hearing entitled: "Current Mine Safety and Disasters: Issues and Challenges," during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing entitled: "Preserving the Rule of Law in the Fight Against Terrorism," on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, at 10 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room 226.

Witness List:

Jack Landman Goldsmith, Henry L. Shattuck Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, in order to conduct a vote on the nomination of Paul J. Hutter, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs. The Committee will meet in the reception room off the Senate Floor immediately after the first rollcall vote that occurs after the party lunches on Tuesday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, at 10 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled: "Preparing the National Capital Region for a Pandemic."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator DODD, I ask unanimous consent that LTCOM Christopher Martin, a Congressional Fellow in Senator DODD's office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the debate of H.R. 3222.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Earl Rilmington and Eric Perritt, fellows serving in Senator COCHRAN's office, be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of this Defense Department appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 342, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 342) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Hispanic Americans and their immense contributions to the Nation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, en bloc; and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 342) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 342

Whereas from September 15, 2007, through October 15, 2007, the country celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at 44,300,000 people, making Hispanic Americans the largest ethnic minority within the United States;

Whereas 1 in every 3 children under the age of 18 in the United States is Hispanic, and there are now more than 14,000,000 Hispanic children living in the United States;

Whereas the purchasing power of Hispanic Americans is projected to reach \$1,000,000,000,000 by 2010 and there are more than 1,600,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States, representing the economic contributions and spirit of entrepreneurship of the Hispanic community;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces, bravely fought in every war in United States history, and continue to serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in that conflict although they comprised only 4.5 percent of the United States population at the time;

Whereas approximately 11 percent, the largest percentage of any ethnic or racial group, of the more than 3,700 United States military fatalities in Iraq have been Hispanic;

Whereas there are more than 1,100,000 Hispanic veterans of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas 41 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 3 seats in the United States Senate; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2007, through October 15, 2007;

(2) honors the heritage and culture of Hispanic Americans and their immense contributions to the life of the Nation; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities.

NATIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 343, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 343) designating October 19, 2007, as "National Mammography Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution designating October 19, 2007, as "National Mammography Day." This is the 15th

straight year I have introduced such legislation, and I am proud to say that on each occasion the Senate has shown its support for the fight against breast cancer by approving the resolution.

Each year, as I prepare to introduce this resolution, I review the latest information from the American Cancer Society about breast cancer. For the year 2007, it is estimated that nearly 178,480 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and 40,460 women will die of this disease.

The first several times I introduced this resolution, I commented on how gloomy the statistics surrounding breast cancer were. While too many of our loved ones still die from breast cancer each year, there are some numbers these days that give us hope in our persistent struggle to defeat this disease. As I mentioned last year, the trend over time is that the number of deaths from breast cancer is actually stable or falling from year to year. According to the American Cancer Society, the death rate from breast cancer in women has decreased since 1990: between 1975-1990, the death rate increased by 0.4 percent; between 1990-2004, the death rate decreased by 2.2 percent annually.

This decline in the breast cancer mortality rate has been attributed to both improvements in breast cancer treatment as well as early detection from mammograms and other screening methods. New digital techniques make the process of mammography much more rapid and precise than before. In addition, early detection of breast cancer continues to result in extremely favorable outcomes: 98 percent of women with localized breast cancer will survive 5 years or longer. Government programs will provide free mammograms to those who can't afford them, as well as Medicaid eligibility for treatment if breast cancer is diagnosed. Information about treatment of breast cancer with surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy has exploded, reflecting enormous research advances in this disease. With all of these advances in research, screening and treatment, a diagnosis of breast cancer is not a death sentence—all of us encounter long-term survivors of breast cancer almost daily, whether we realize it or not.

Recently, there has been discussion among scientists regarding the best and most appropriate screening tool for breast cancer—traditional mammography or more advanced technology like magnetic resonance imaging, MRI. In addition, newspapers have been filled with discussions over whether the scientific evidence actually supports the conclusion that periodic screening mammography saves lives. For those of us who are neither physicians nor scientists in this highly technical area, we look to the experts. The American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force all continue to recommend periodic screening mammography.

As for mammography versus MRI's, in 2007 an expert panel convened by the American Cancer Society released new recommendations for the use of MRI for women at increased risk for breast cancer. Essentially, the Society recommended annual screening using MRI in addition to mammography for women at high lifetime risk, 20 to 25 percent or greater of developing breast cancer. Women with moderately increased risk of developing the disease, 15 to 20 percent lifetime risk, should discuss the option of adding an MRI to their annual mammogram with their physician. Women that do not fall into the high-risk or moderate-risk categories for developing breast cancer have no need to supplement their mammogram with an MRI.

I know that some women don't have annual mammograms because of either fear or forgetfulness. It is only human nature for some women to avoid mammograms because they are afraid of what the test will reveal. To those who are fearful, I would say that if you have periodic routine mammograms, and the latest one comes out positive, even before you have any symptoms or have found a lump on self-examination, you have reason to be optimistic, not pessimistic. Such early-detected breast cancers are highly treatable.

Then there is forgetfulness. I certainly understand how difficult it is to remember to do something that only comes around once each year. I would suggest that this is where National Mammography Day comes in. On that day, let's make sure that each woman we know picks a specific date on which to get a mammogram each year, a date that she won't forget: a child's birthday, an anniversary, perhaps even the day her taxes are due. On National Mammography Day, let's ask our loved ones: pick one of these dates, fix it in your mind along with a picture of your child, your wedding, or another symbol of that date, and promise yourself to get a mammogram on that date every year. Once you pick a date, call your health care provider and make an appointment. If you have access to the internet, go the American Cancer Society's website and sign up for the mammogram reminder service—they'll send you an e-mail to remind you about the date you picked. Do it for yourself and for the others that love you and want you to be part of their lives for as long as possible.

And to those women who are reluctant to have a mammogram, once again I say let National Mammography Day serve as a reminder to discuss this question each year with your physician. New scientific studies that are published and new mammography techniques that are developed may affect your decision on this matter from one year to the next. I encourage you to keep an open mind and not to feel that a decision at one point in time commits you irrevocably to a particular course of action for the indefinite future.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in the ongoing fight against breast cancer by cosponsoring and voting for this resolution to designate October 19, 2007, as "National Mammography Day".

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 343) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 343

Whereas, according to the American Cancer Society, in 2007, 178,480 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and 40,460 women will die from that disease;

Whereas it is estimated that about 2,000,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in the 1990s, and that in nearly 500,000 of those cases the cancer resulted in death;

Whereas approximately 3,000,000 women in the United States are living with breast cancer, about 2,300,000 have been diagnosed with the disease, and an estimated 1,000,000 do not yet know they have the disease;

Whereas African-American women suffer a 36 percent greater mortality rate from breast cancer than White women and more than a 100 percent greater mortality rate from breast cancer than women from Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian populations;

Whereas the risk of breast cancer increases with age, with a woman at age 70 having twice as much of a chance of developing the disease as a woman at age 50;

Whereas at least 90 percent of the women who get breast cancer have no family history of the disease;

Whereas mammograms, when operated professionally at a certified facility, can provide safe screening and early detection of breast cancer in many women;

Whereas mammography is an excellent method for early detection of localized breast cancer, which has a 5-year survival rate of 98 percent;

Whereas the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society continue to recommend periodic mammograms; and

Whereas the National Breast Cancer Coalition recommends that each woman and her health care provider make an individual decision about mammography: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 19, 2007, as "National Mammography Day"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities.

UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 319 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 319) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the United